Sukedachi Nine

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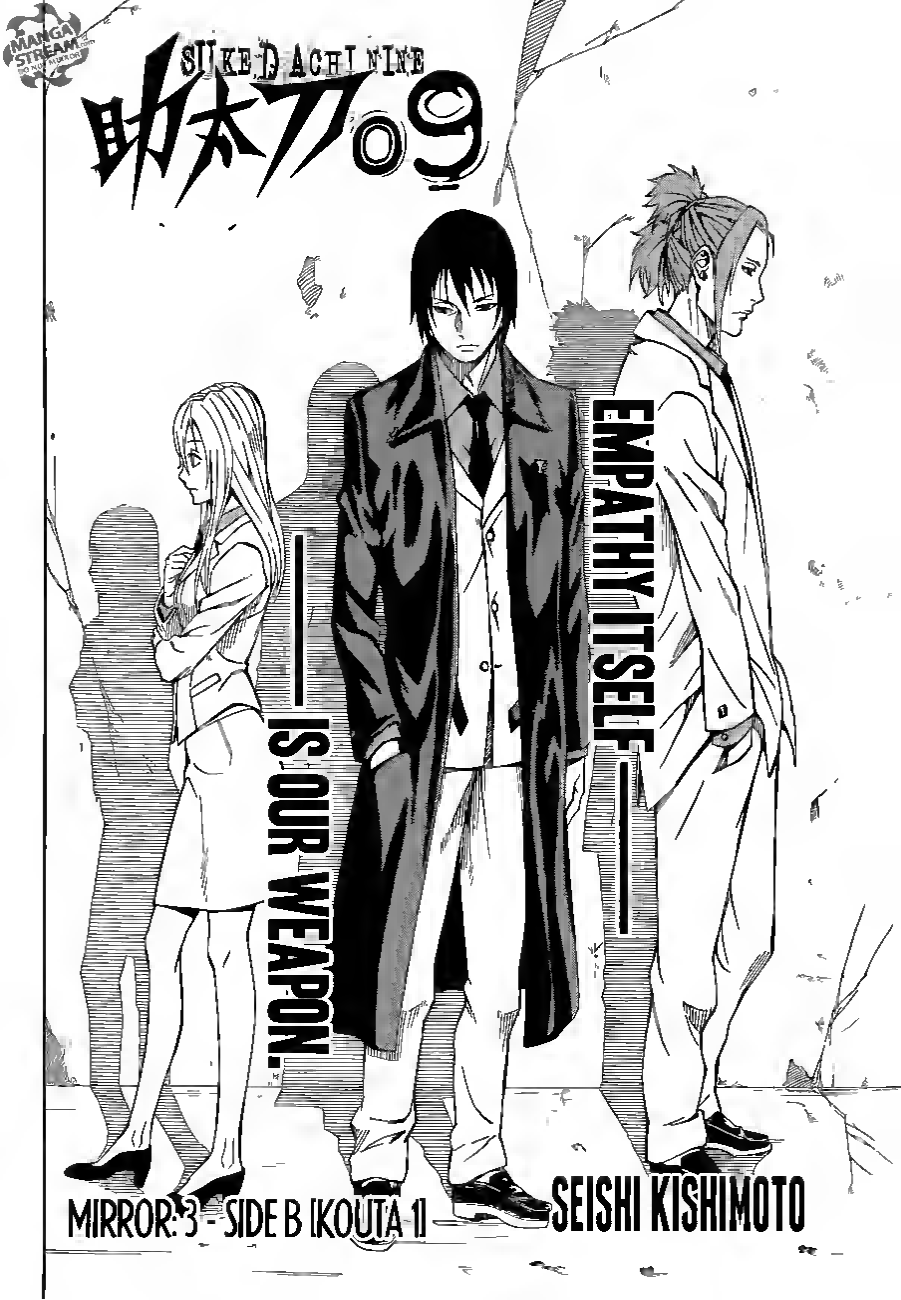
CONSIDER BUYING THE OFFICIAL VOLUMES WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION.

TO THINK IT'S ALREADY BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE THAT DAY.
RYOUKO KOIZUMI.
THE GIRL FROM THAT INCIDENT, HUH...
THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE WILL BECOME THE NEW...
MUSASHI
8.
SHE'S MANAGED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR, ONLY A MINISCULE PERCENT OF THE APPLICANTS ARE EVEN LEFT
SHE'S EVEN GOT AN IDIOSYNCRATIC SET OF ABILITIES.
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR EYE ON HER FOR A WHILE NOW.
BUT IT REALLY DOES SEEM LIKE SHE WAS FATED TO JOIN
WITH THE RIGHT MENTOR, SHE'LL MAKE A FINE SUKEDACHI.
WELL, YOU ARE THE LEADER OF THE GROUP AFTER ALL.
I TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT.
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, SENIOR COMMISSIONER, OKUMURA KENJI (45)
助太刀69

MANGA STREAM

SUKEDACHINE

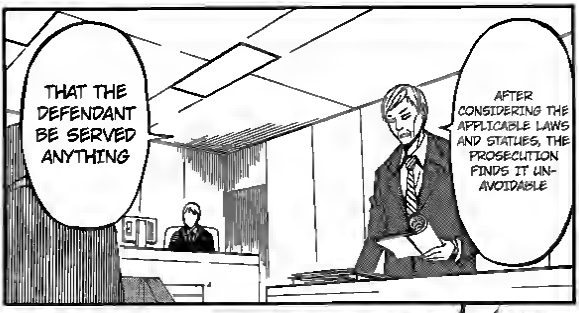
助太刀09



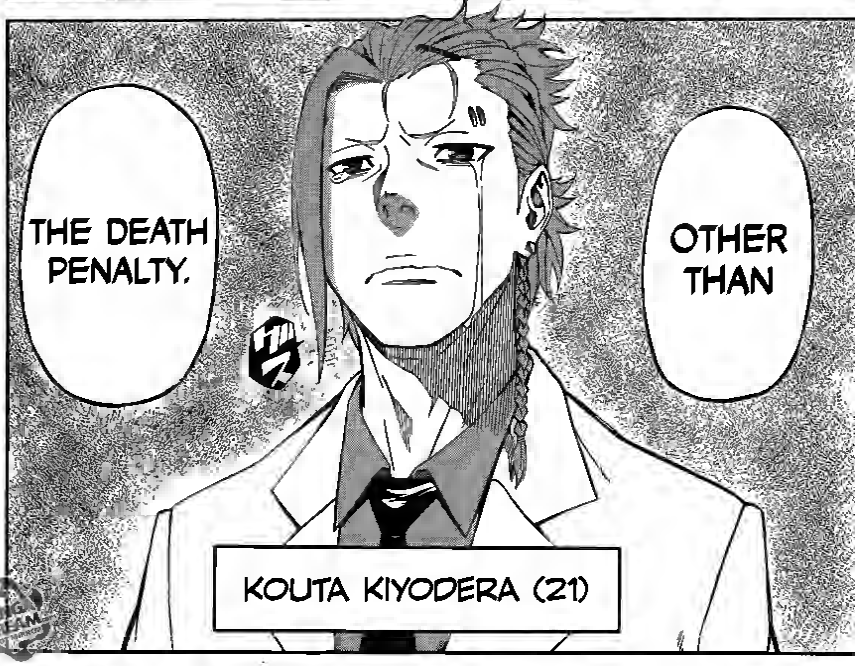
MIRROR:3 - SIDE B (KOUTA 1)

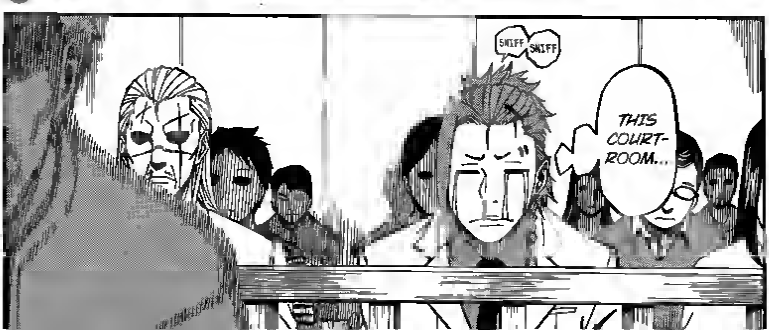
SEISHI KISHIMOTO

KOUTA KIYODERA.
家庭裁判
AM I CORRECT IN STATING THAT YOU, AGED 11...
STABBED YOUR FATHER TO DEATH?
MANGA STREAM
IF YOU COULD CALL THAT BASTARD A FATHER, THEN...
KOUTA KIYODERA (11)
YEAH. I KILLED 'IM.

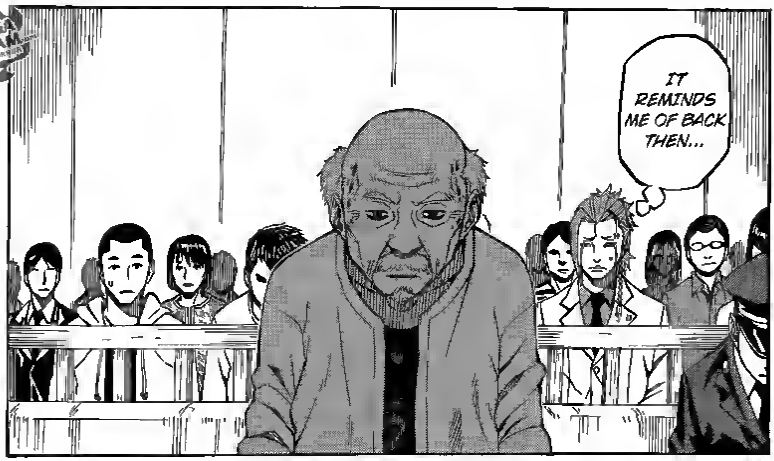

AFTER CONSIDERING THE APPLICABLE LAWS AND STATUES, THE PROSECUTION FINDS IT UN-AVOIDABLE
THAT THE DEFENDANT BE SERVED ANYTHING

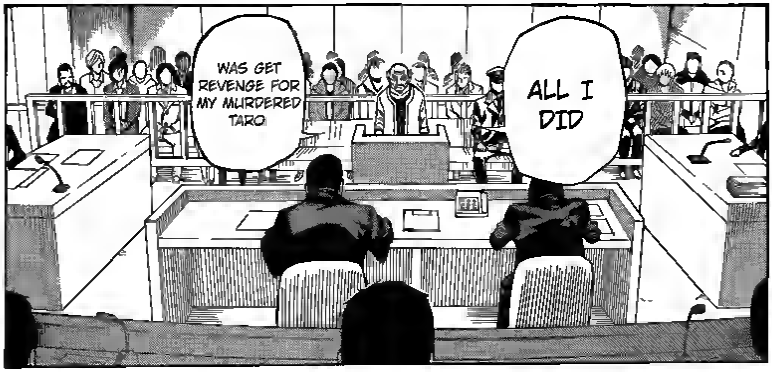
裁判所


OTHER THAN
THE DEATH PENALTY.
KOUTA KIYODERA (21)


SNIFF SNIFF
THIS COURT-ROOM...

MANGA STREAM
DO NOT REMOVE





NEED YOU TO WITNESS THE ENTIRETY OF THIS CASE.
I
WHISPER
IF THINKING OF IT THAT WAY WILL HELP YOU FOCUS, THEN YES
IS THIS SOME SORT OF ENTRANCE EXAM? AM I GONNA BE QUIZZED ON THIS STUFF?
WHISPER
CAPTAIN ... WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO HAVE MY APPLICANT INTERVIEW IN THE GALLERY OF A COURTROOM?
WHISPER

DAMNNN! SHE'S HOT, DUDE!
RIGHT? ♪
SHIT, MAN. I'D DIE FOR A GIRL LIKE THAT.
AND SHE SENT YOU THIS VIDEO!? WHAT A FREAKY BITCH! ♪
YOU TELLIN' ME YOU'RE GOIN' OUT WITH THAT GIRL?
NOBU?
DUDE, THAT'S NOT FUNNY WAY TO RUIN THE JOKE.
WHA-?
UUUGH...

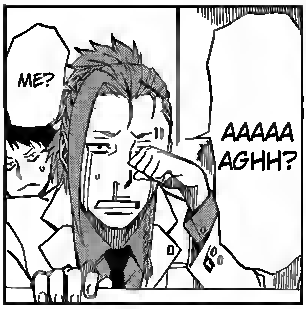
!?
KKSHK
NOBU!
!
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU, OLD MAN!?
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU-

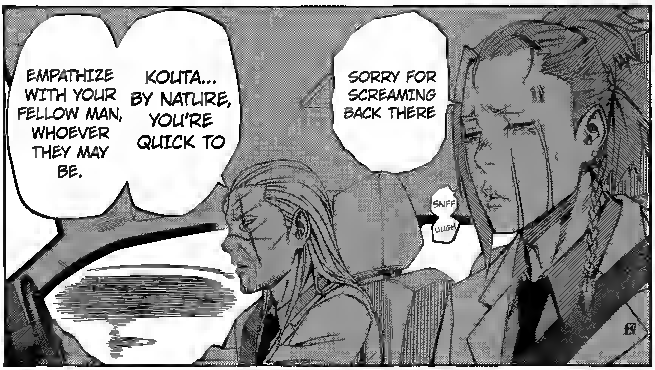
THIS IS REVENGE FOR TARO!
YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER, DO YOU?
?
WHO, YOU ASK?
WHO
THE
TA... RO...
FAMILY.
TARO WAS...HE WAS...

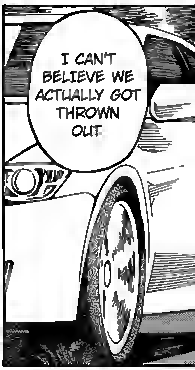
YOU WERE STILL A CHILD, AND AS SUCH WERE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF ARTICLE 41 OF THE PENAL CODE*.
WHISPER
YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME... IS THAT WHY YOU...
WHISPER
T/N "CHILDREN UNDER 14 SHALL NOT BE SERVED PUNISHMENT UNDER THE LAW"
AS I THOUGHT. YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE
BUT I DO! COURTS ARE FOR DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THE DEFENDANT IS GUILTY OR INNOCENT, RIGHT?
WHISPER
WHICH IS WHY I CAN'T HAVE YOU JOINING US WITHOUT PROPERLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE PURPOSE OF A COURT REALLY IS.
WHISPER
YOUR COURTROOM QUESTIONING WAS JUST A NOMINAL FORMALITY.
WHISPER
WHETHER OR NOT THE STATEMENTS OF THE PROSECUTOR ARE 100% CORRECT.
THE COURTS OF THIS COUNTRY EXIST TO CHECK
DEFENDANT AND COUNSEL.
VERSUS
COURTS ARE NOT FAIR-AND-SQUARE SHOWDOWNS OF PLAINTIFF AND PROSECUTOR

IN THE COURTROOM, THE PROSECUTOR IS GOD INCARNATE.
WHISPER
THAT IS WHY WE HAVE A CONVICTION RATE OF OVER 99.8%.
WHISPER
.....
TELL ME, ETHICALLY, WHICH LIFE DO YOU THINK MORE VALUABLE?
THAT OF A HUMAN, OR THAT OF YOUR MURDERED TARO?
TARO...
MR. INUZUKA, YOU KILLED
TWO YOUNG MEN.
YOUR PET DOG!?

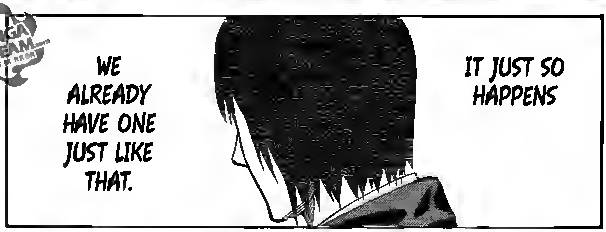
KUH-
MY NOBUO...
SOB
I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR: I HAD MY REVENGE.
.....
HE...
AND TO AVENGE A DOG,
NO WAY! SO TARO WAS JUST A DOG!?
WHAT SORT OF CRAZY COOT IS THIS OLD MAN!?
KILLED 2 HUMANS!?
GRAAAAAAHHH!

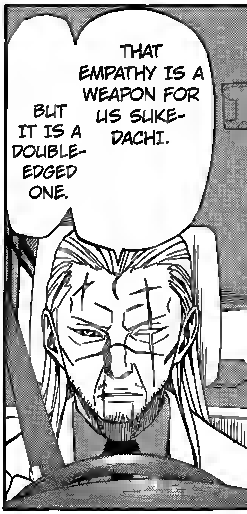


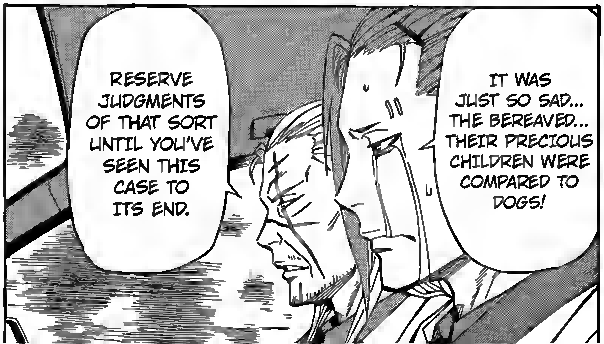

EMPATHIZE WITH YOUR FELLOW MAN, WHOEVER THEY MAY BE.
KOUTA... BY NATURE, YOU'RE QUICK TO
SORRY FOR SCREAMING BACK THERE
SNIFF
SNIFF



MANGA STREAM

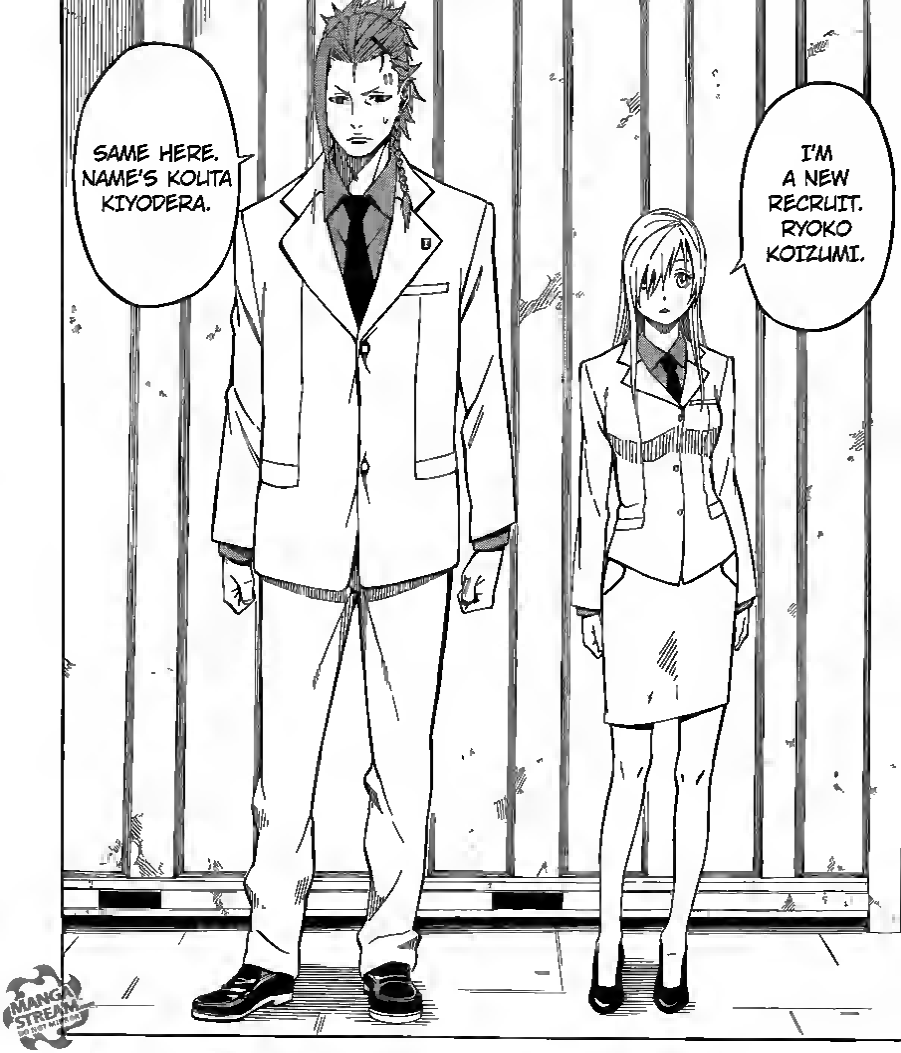





RESERVE JUDGMENTS OF THAT SORT UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN THIS CASE TO ITS END.
IT WAS JUST SO SAD... THE BEREAVED... THEIR PRECIOUS CHILDREN WERE COMPARED TO DOGS!

DOES THIS MEAN
I'VE FAILED MY ENTRANCE EXAM TO BECOMING A SUKEDACHI?
IF IT DID, WOULD YOU START CRYING AGAIN?
...NO.
I'M DONE CRYING.
WELL,
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE PASSED.
BY THE WAY, WE'VE GOT ONE MORE STOP TO MAKE. GOT ANOTHER PERSON TO PICK UP.
!
ANOTHER !?
TRY TO NOT LET HER MAKE YOU CRY EITHER.
YOU ARE A MAN, AFTER ALL...
WHA—!?

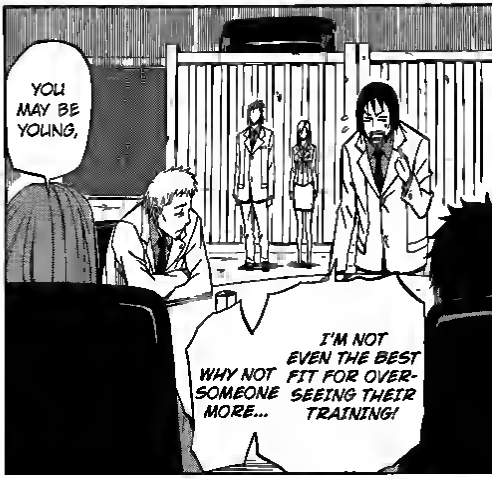
CAP-TAIN ODA!
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO TRAIN THESE KIDS!
COME ON, TWO AT ONCE AIN'T FAIR!
ZZ...
MEOW
COME ON, YUUJI. IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD.
AND ALL OF THEM LOOK LIKE THEY'RE A FEW CARDS SHORT OF A FULL DECK...
THESE GUYS... THEY'RE REAL SUKEDACHI.
NEWBIES? AND TWO OF THEM AT ONCE? THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SEE EVERY DAY.


SAME HERE. NAME'S KOUTA KIYODERA.
I'M A NEW RECRUIT. RYOKO KOIZUMI.

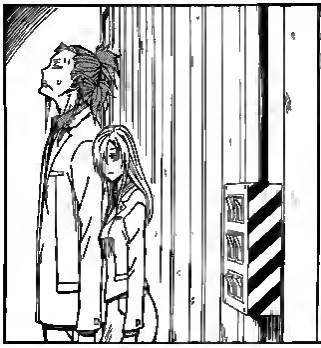
SUKEDACHI NO. 9
RYOKO KOIZUMI (23)

MANAGE TO GET THE OKAY TO BE A SUKE-DACHI!?
HOW'D A MATURE, CHIC PERSON LIKE THIS
SO THIS IS THE OTHER NEWBIE...
.....
FILTHY MAN.
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER. DON'T LOOK AT ME. DON'T TALK TO ME.
HUH?

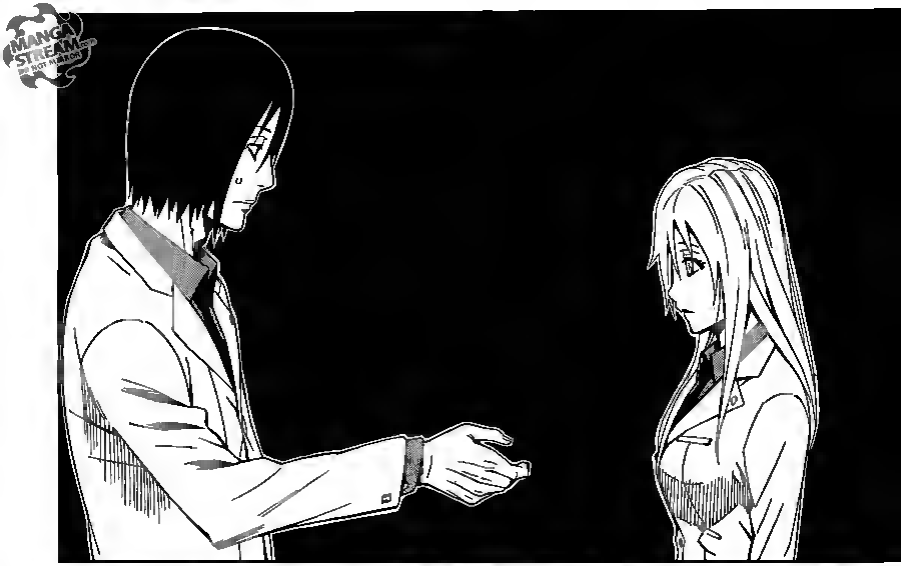
I PICKED YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT SUKEDACHI. NO OTHER REASON.
BUT I BET YOU'D ENJOY HAVING A FEW GOPERS TO ORDER AROUND? NO?

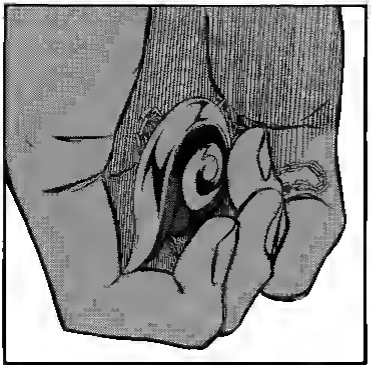


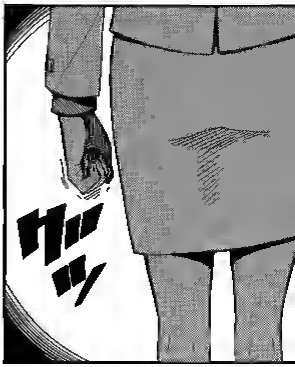
MANGA STREAM
DO NOT REPRODUCE



HM?
!
!
EH?
AH!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, TOO.
HAVEN'T I SEEN HER BEFORE?
THIS GIRL...
MANGA STREAM
DO NOT REMOVE
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
AH, ER ...NEVER MIND. MY MISTAKE.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT RIGHT OFF THE BAT, I SEE.
NICE TO MEET YOU... AGAIN? I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?
?



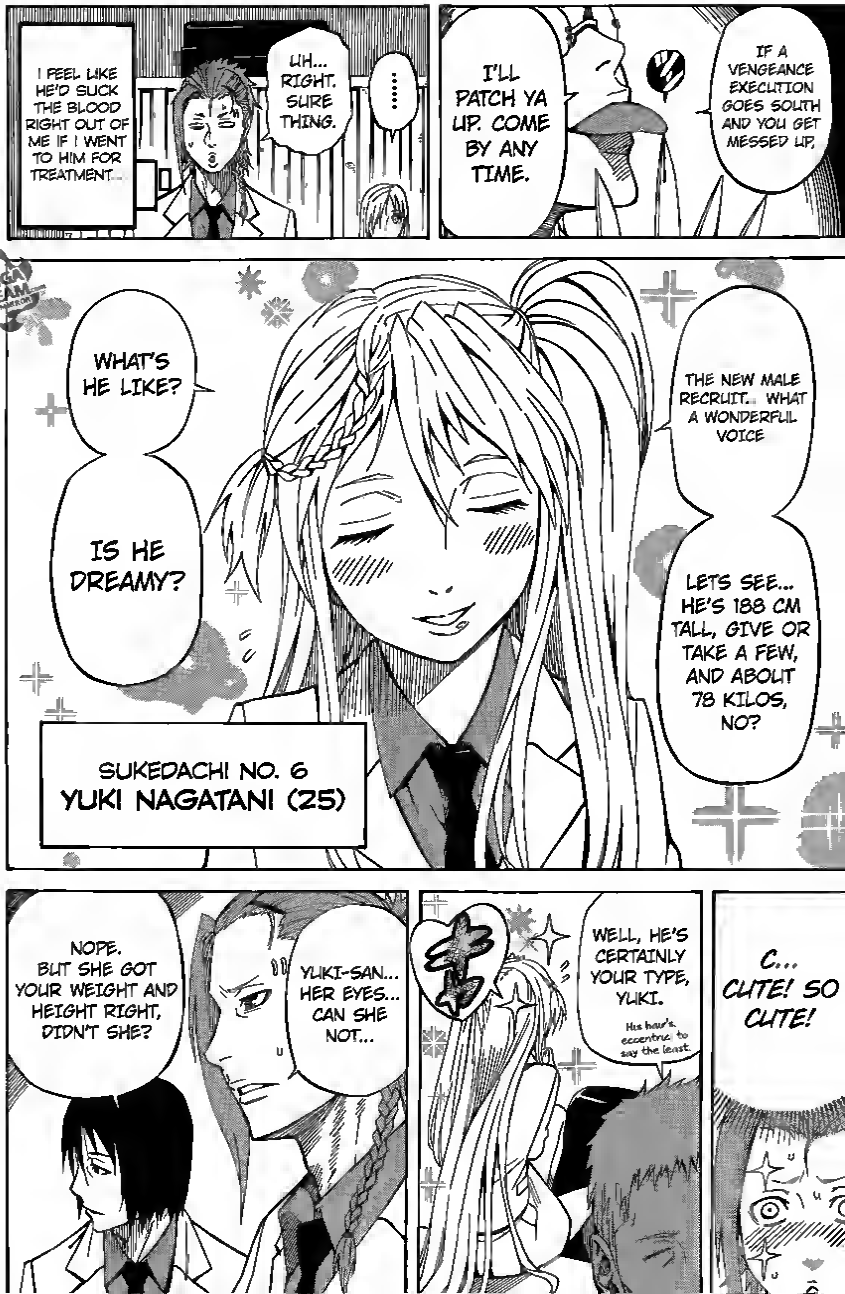


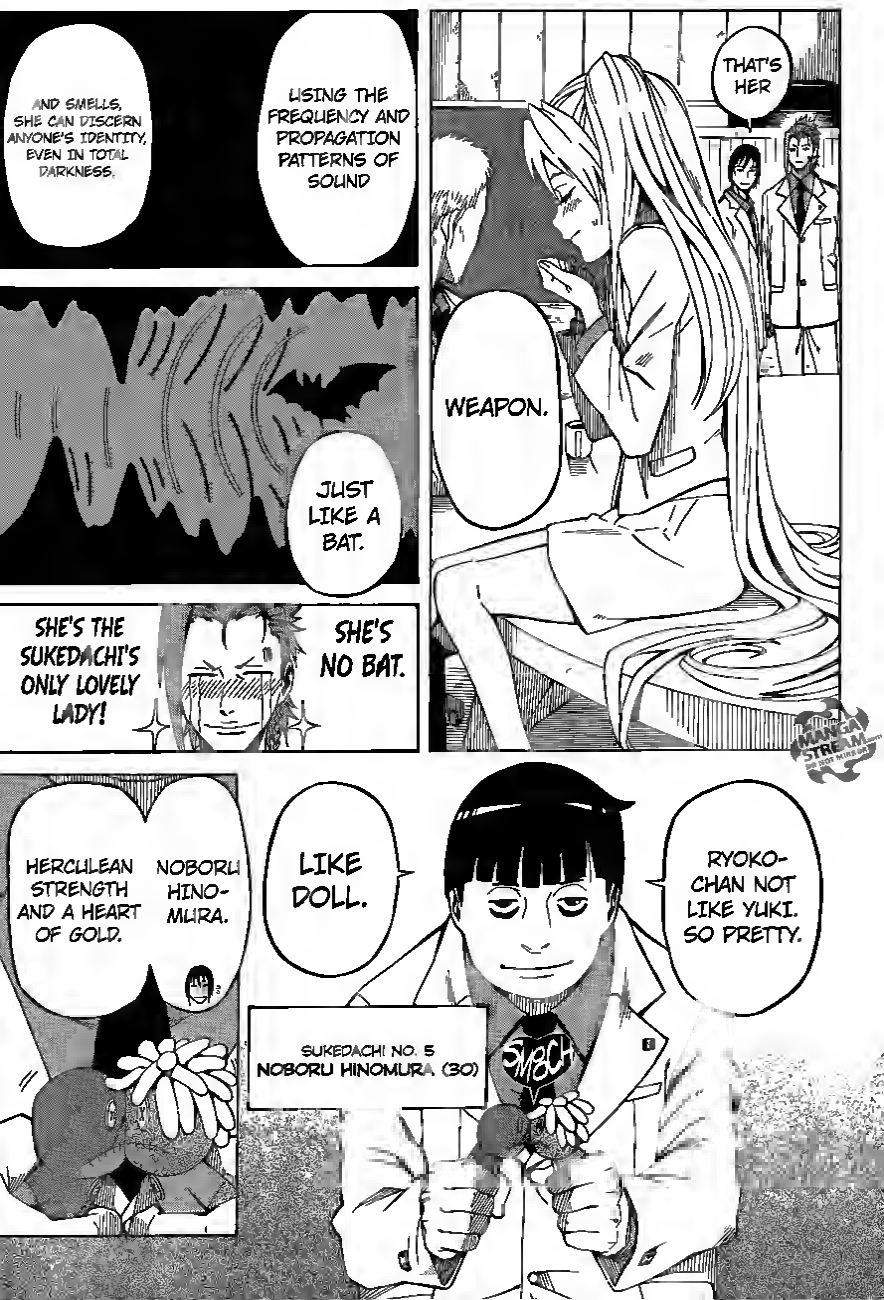


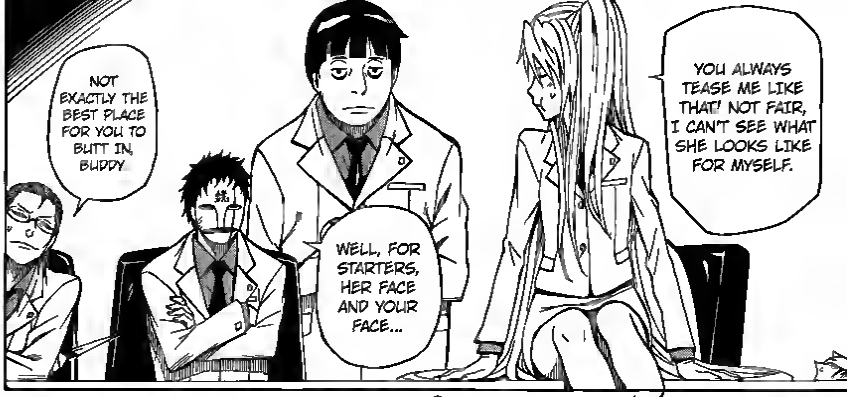
I REALLY HOPE SHE DOESN'T ACTUALLY MAKE ME CRY...
SHEESH, I CAN JUST TELL I'M NOT GOING TO GET ALONG WITH THIS GIRL..

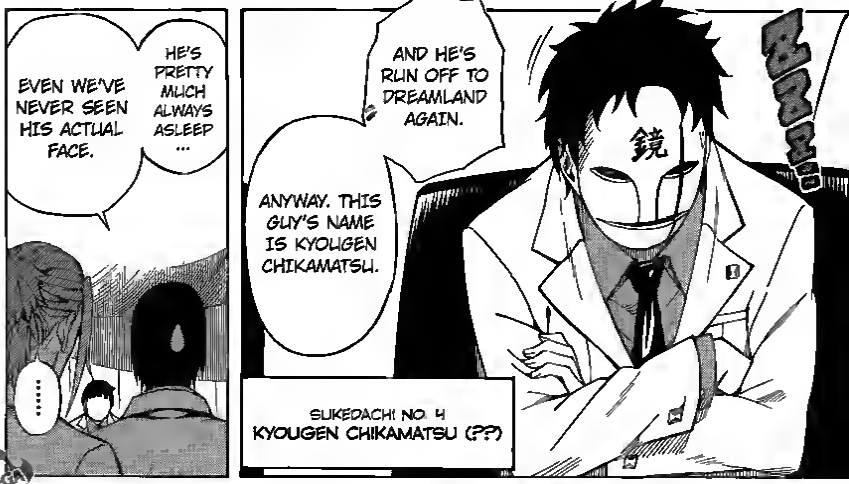
UH— LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU
.....

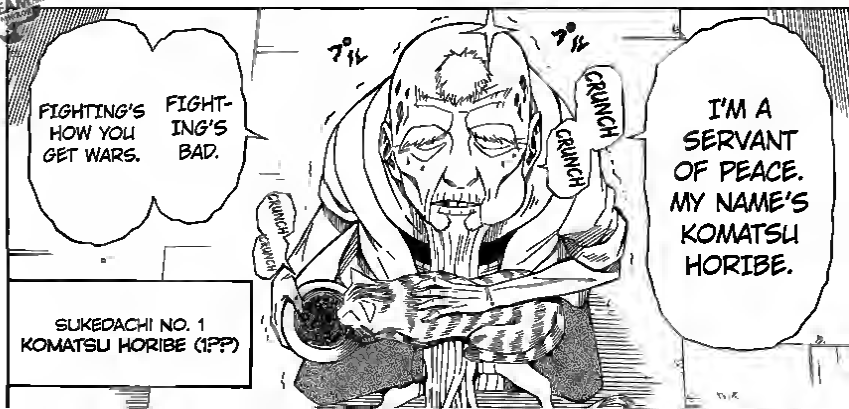
THE HANGAR OF SOME AVIATION COMPANY THAT WENT BELLY UP.
WELCOME TO THE SUKEDACHI OFFICE.
COME NOW, MISSY, NO NEED TO BE SO STIFF.
THE MORE CORPSES WE LEAVE IN OUR WAKE.
AFTER ALL, THE BUSIER WE ARE...
PSHT, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. THERE'S NO NEED TO PUT ON AIRS
IT'S THE TRUTH.
BASICALLY, IT'S WHERE WE DRINK COFFEE AND SKIP OUT ON OUR ACTUAL JOBS.
HEY! IT'S STILL HER FIRST DAY!
SFX LICK
NOW I TAKE CARE OF THE STABBING CASES HERE.
YOU COULD SAY I'M THE SUKEDACHI'S KNIFE SPECIALIST.
THE NAME'S YOSHIHIKO HAGIWARA. USED TO BE A DOCTOR.
SPECIAL EXECUTION SQUAD, SUKEDACHI NO 3, YOSHIHIKO HAGIWARA (36)


I FEEL LIKE HE'D SUCK THE BLOOD RIGHT OUT OF ME IF I WENT TO HIM FOR TREATMENT...
UH... RIGHT. SURE THING.
.....
I'LL PATCH YA UP. COME BY ANY TIME.
IF A VENGEANCE EXECUTION GOES SOUTH AND YOU GET MESSED UP,
MANGA STREAM
WHAT'S HE LIKE?
IS HE DREAMY?
THE NEW MALE RECRUIT... WHAT A WONDERFUL VOICE
LETS SEE... HE'S 188 CM TALL, GIVE OR TAKE A FEW, AND ABOUT 78 KILOS, NO?
SUKEDACHI NO. 6
YUKI NAGATANI (25)
NOPE. BUT SHE GOT YOUR WEIGHT AND HEIGHT RIGHT, DIDN'T SHE?
YUKI-SAN... HER EYES... CAN SHE NOT...
WELL, HE'S CERTAINLY YOUR TYPE, YUKI.
His hair's eccentric to say the least.
C... CUTE! SO CUTE!

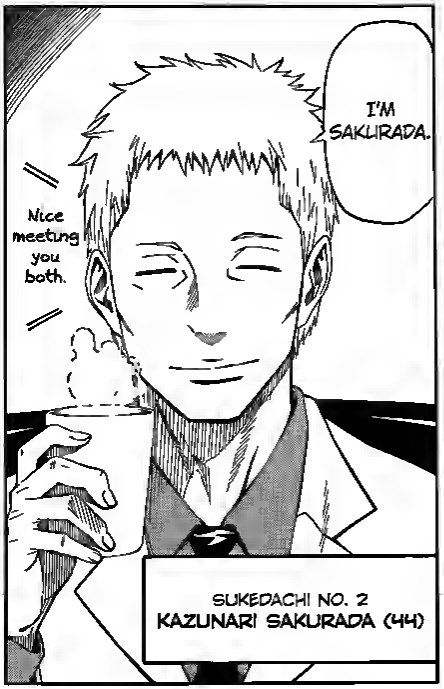

AND SMELLS, SHE CAN DISCERN ANYONE'S IDENTITY, EVEN IN TOTAL DARKNESS.
USING THE FREQUENCY AND PROPAGATION PATTERNS OF SOUND
JUST LIKE A BAT.
SHE'S THE SUKEDACHI'S ONLY LOVELY LADY!
SHE'S NO BAT.
THAT'S HER
WEAPON.
MANGA STREAM
DO NOT MIRROR
HERCULEAN STRENGTH AND A HEART OF GOLD.
NOBORU HINO-MURA.
LIKE DOLL.
RYOKO-CHAN NOT LIKE YUKI. SO PRETTY.
SUKEDACHI NO. 5
NOBORU HINOMURA (30)
SMACH

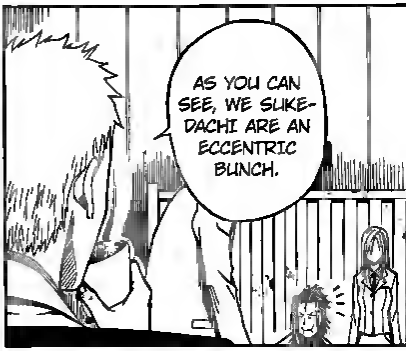

NOT EXACTLY THE BEST PLACE FOR YOU TO BUTT IN, BUDDY.
WELL, FOR STARTERS, HER FACE AND YOUR FACE...
YOU ALWAYS TEASE ME LIKE THAT! NOT FAIR, I CAN'T SEE WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE FOR MYSELF.

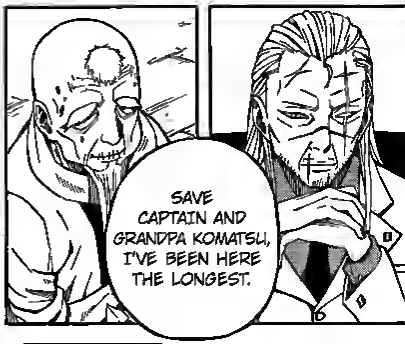

EVEN WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIS ACTUAL FACE.
HE'S PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS ASLEEP ...
.....
AND HE'S RUN OFF TO DREAMLAND AGAIN.
ANYWAY. THIS GUY'S NAME IS KYOUGEN CHIKAMATSU.
鏡
SUKEDACHI NO. 4
KYOUGEN CHIKAMATSU (??)


FIGHTING'S HOW YOU GET WARS.
FIGHTING'S BAD.
I'M A SERVANT OF PEACE. MY NAME'S KOMATSU HORIBE.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
SUKEDACHI NO. 1
KOMATSU HORIBE (1??)

IT WAS TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE I TELL YA...
I REMEMBER THE WAR...
THERE THERE.
MEOW
WHEN'D THIS GUY...
WHA—!?
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HIM...
!!
CAT FOOD!
MAN'S GREATEST ENEMY IS HUNGER.
HERE. YOU GUYS WANT SOME?
IT'S DELICIOUS.
CRAP, THIS ONE'S GONE AND TAKEN SYMPATHY WITH GRAMPS!
HE MUST HAVE HAD SUCH A HORRIBLE LIFE...
I'D LOVE SOME!
YES SIR!
.....
THEN THAT MEANS HE'S BEEN ALIVE FOR OVER A CENTURY!
IF THIS GUY WAS A SOLDIER IN THE WAR,







YUUJI YAMAGISHI.
Sheesh.
AND FINALLY WE HAVE YOUR GUARDIAN, SO TO SPEAK. THE YOUNG HOPE OF THIS ORGANI-ZATION.
SUKEDACHI NO. 7
YUUJI YAMAGISHI (24)

MANGA STREAM

CAPTAIN ODA ALREADY TOLD US.
AND ALWAYS COMPARING HIS LOT WITH OTHERS'.
NERVOUS, ANXIOUS
HE'S...
HAHA... RIGHT.
WHAT'S MORE, YUUJI'S ALSO AIRHEADED ENOUGH THAT HE MANAGED TO LOSE HIS ONLY MEMENTO OF HIS DEAR LATE MOTHER
TEACH THESE KIDS NOW!?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO...
GOT IT.
RUB OFF ON YA
AS HIS STUDENTS, TRY NOT TO LET THAT AIRHEADEDNESS

AHEM. BACK TO THE EDUCATION. THE KIND OF PEOPLE SUITED TO BECOMING SUKEDACHI
ARE EITHER VICTIMS OF CRIMES THEMSELVES OR THE BEREAVED THEREOF.
SUCH A PERSON WILL BE ABLE TO DEEPLY HATE CRIMINAL ACTS AND STRONGLY SYMPATHIZE
WITH THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF VICTIMS OF CRIME.
ENOUGH TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR THEM.
YOU BOTH HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF CRIME-RELATED TRAGEDY IN YOUR LIVES
I'M INTENTIONALLY NOT GOING TO PRY,
NOR DO I WISH FOR YOU TO COME FORWARD AND TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT,
BUT DO KEEP IN MIND THAT EVENTUALLY, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,
EVERYONE HERE WILL HAVE HEARD THE TALE.
MANGA STREAM DO NOT STEAL ON

WHERE DOES SHE GET OFF SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF ALL OF YOU!?
THAT GIRL... SHE'S A NEWBIE, JUST LIKE ME, RIGHT?
INTER-PERSONAL SKILLS ARE IMPORTANT FOR A SUKEDACHI, REMEMBER THAT
I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH RYOKO...
THIS RECENT SERIAL RAPE MURDER CASE...
I'M GOING TO TAKE IT ON!
I FEEL LIKE SHE'S JUST LEFT ME IN THE DUST.
KOLITA, KID... WAS IT?
YUUJI-SENPAI, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE!♪
WELL...
THIS GUY REALLY IS ANNOYING.
UGH.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH...

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KILL SOMEONE THAT BAD?
I... I JUST WANNA BE OF SERVICE TO THE BE-REAVED!
KOUTA, YOU REMIND ME OF MYSELF.
WE BOTH SYMPATHIZE TOO STRONGLY WITH THE BEREAVED.
LISTEN... VENGEANCE, REVENGE... THEY'RE...
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE THINGS ARE, SENPAI. I'VE GOTTEN MY OWN REVENGE BEFORE.
MANGA STREAM

OH, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
WELL THEN. SORRY FOR THE LECTURE.
I SEE.
MANGA STREAM
I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT TO EMPATHIZE.
IT'S JUST...
THERE WAS NO FEMALE PRESENCE AT HOME, AND I GUESS I GREW INTO A BIT OF A WILD BRAT
EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, I LIVED WITH MY ORNERY OLD GRANDPA JUST ME AND HIM.
AS LONG AS I WAS FINE, THE WORLD WAS FINE. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

WATER GHOST?
SO YOU HAD A NIGHTMARE AGAIN, HUH ...?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT CAUSE YOU SKIPPED OUT ON CLEANING THE BATHTUB TODAY?
I SAW A WATER GHOST...
WELL, WHATEVER. COME.
PAT PAT

GRAMPS, YOU'RE SCARED OF THE GHOSTS TOO, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU LET ME SLEEP NEXT TO YOU, RIGHT?
HMPH.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER, WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE, WAS SCARIER THAN A THOUSAND GHOSTS.
I AIN'T SCARED OF NO PISSY GHOST.
BUT...
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I USED TO CRAWL MY WAY INTO MY PARENTS' BED ALL THE TIME.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW.
!
I EMPATHIZE WITH YOU.
EMPA... THIZE?

QSEEEE
IT MEANS THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE WHAT ANOTHER PERSON IS FEELING, AND ALLOW YOURSELF TO FEEL THE SAME WAY.

GRANDPA...
DON'T GO ANYWHERE, OKAY?
GRANDPA...
WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S NOT IT.
AAH! GRAMPS, YOU'RE CRYING! I KNEW YOU WERE SCARED OF GHOSTS!
I'M HAPPY, SILLY.

I THOUGHT MY DAYS WITH GRAMPS WOULD CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS FOREVER.
BUT,
ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS 11,
A CERTAIN PERSON STABBED GRAMPS TO DEATH.
THAT MAN, I LEARNED,
WAS THE ONE WHO'D ABANDONED MY MOTHER AND RAN OFF MY FATHER
I HAD NO IDEA...
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS, OR THAT GRAMPS HAD BEEN USING THE MONEY HE NEEDED FOR HIS MEDICINES TO RAISE ME
OR THAT MAN HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET CUSTODY OVER ME FOR A LONG TIME
MANGA STREAM

I EMPATHIZED WITH HIM SO STRONGLY.
GRAMPS HAD SHOULDERED ALL THE BURDEN, ALONE.
THAT'S RIGHT... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, FROM A PLACE DEEPER THAN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART,
I RESONATED WITH ANOTHER HUMAN BEING.
LATER, THAT MAN CAME TO SEE ME.
TEARS IN HIS EYES.
KOUTA... I'M YOUR DAD.
FINALLY... FINALLY I GET TO HUG YOU...
AND WITHOUT HESITATION,
I JUMPED INTO HIS OPEN ARMS,

FAILED TO EVOKE EVEN THE SMALLEST SHRED OF EMPATHY IN ME.
THE TEARS OF THE MAN THAT CALLED HIMSELF MY FATHER
PENCIL AT THE READY.
MANGA STREAM
I KILLED HIM.
YEAH,
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
REPENT?
家庭裁判

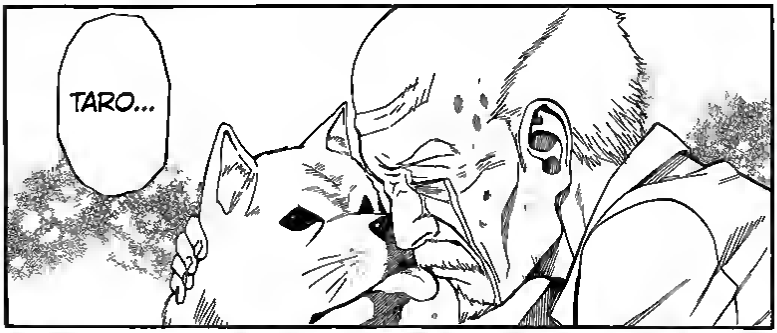
I WANTED HIM TO UNDERSTAND, TO FEEL EVEN A LITTLE OF THE PAIN I FEEL!
IF HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MY GRANDFATHER MEANT TO ME, AT LEAST HE NOW KNOWS THE PAIN OF BEING STABBED.
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE ABLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH GRAMPS!
WHETHER THAT MAN WERE TO ROT IN A CELL OR MEET HIS END AT THE GALLOWS,
MANGA STREAM
I STABBED THAT BASTARD.
THAT'S WHY
I DARESAY YOUNG KOUTA'S THOUGHTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY THE JUDGE HIMSELF.
WERE IT NOT FOR ARTICLE 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH PROHIBITS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT,
EVEN TO A KID LIKE ME, IT'S PLAIN AS DAY!
I MADE HIM REPENT! HOW MUCH MORE OBVIOUS COULD IT BE!?

I AVENGED MY GRAND-FATHER
BY KILLING MY FATHER.

KOUTA... YOUR PAST IS QUITE SIMILAR TO THAT OF RYOKO'S MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

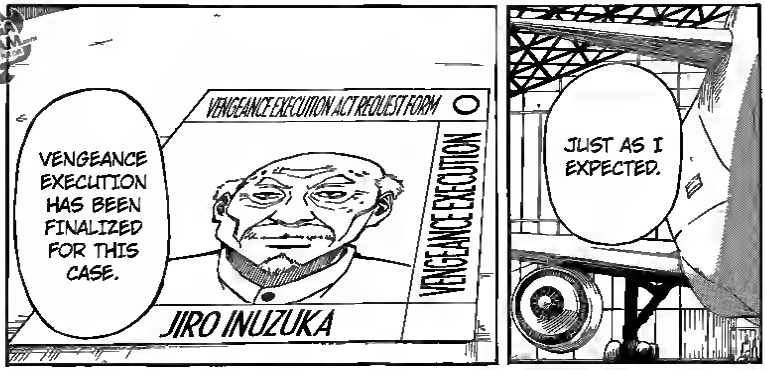
YOU WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE INCIDENTS THAT LED TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE VENGEANCE EXECUTION ACT.

!
BECAUSE THEY FORCE THE BEREAVED TO SUPPRESS THEIR EMOTIONS AND STAND TRIAL?
LET ME GUESS, THAT'S ALSO WHY YOU HATE COURTROOMS, NO?
IT'S AN EASY ENOUGH INFERENCE TO MAKE GIVEN OUR CONVERSATION SO FAR
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT
COULD IT BE... SENPAI... ARE YOU PSYCHIC!?
THIS PARTICULAR CASE...
THE CAPTAIN'S FORCING ME TO SIT THROUGH THIS PARTICULAR CASE'S COURT PROCEEDINGS?
SO THEN CAN YOU TELL ME WHY, DESPITE KNOWING ALL THIS,
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON WHAT TO DO WITH KOUTA?
CAPTAIN...
?
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I COULD NEVER EMPATHIZE
WITH A CRIMINAL THAT'S KILLED SOMEONE.



MANGA STREAM

MANGA STREAM


VENGEANCE EXECUTION ACT REQUEST FORM
VENGEANCE EXECUTION
VENGEANCE HAS BEEN FINALIZED FOR THIS CASE.
JIRO INUZUKA
JUST AS I EXPECTED.